

## EVALUATING HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

Since the older houses of Wilmington and the areas within which they have been developed lend a lasting beauty and a specific character to the city it is important that future land use planning take into consideration these characteristics. However, before any plans could be made for these historic buildings, it is necessary that they be analyzed and evaluated on the basis of some specific criteria. First, the most important buildings and sites must be identified and evaluated. Second, the feasibility of preserving these buildings, either individually or within a grouping, must be determined from a practical standpoint of the legal, economic, and private means available.

Since a study of this sort is of a specialized nature, rather than devise a new method, the survey techniques devised by the Providence, Rhode Island Plan Commission in their publication, College Hill - A Demonstration Study for Historic Area Renewal, will be used. The criteria on which their techniques were devised were taken from those set forth by the National Park Service and National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The techniques devised in the "College Hill" study propose the use of a data sheet to evaluate each historic building. In this manner pertinent information can be collected on permanent forms, recorded for present and future planning decisions and scored for evaluation purposes. Each building is scored according to its historic value, architectural worth, importance to the neighborhood, structural condition, and conditions of the surrounding buildings or neighborhood.